

17 July 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: D'Arcy Brent

SUBJECT : DCI Reply to Thomas E. Murray

I think that all that is called for by the Murray letter is a relatively brief reply. I would suggest something along the following lines for DCI to say.

1. I would not exclude the possibility of limited nuclear wars although political and psychological inhibitions will operate on both sides even in the field of limited nuclear warfare.

2. I would not discount too greatly the deterrent of our overall nuclear posture or Soviet willingness to commit local aggression. The Soviets could never be sure that we would not up the ante or that via miscalculation a general nuclear conflict could develop, regardless of the fact that neither originally intended this outcome.

3. We would be inclined to be less cautious than you in feeling that we are probably still ahead of the Soviets in atomic armament. They do not appear to have placed much more emphasis on small weapons than we do.

4. The problem of partial versus complete test suspension is a very complex one, but here again I would add that there are political and psychological factors which may have just as much bearing on our posture as the purely military balance.

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